

245 the Sampáji Ghat in 1855, Dr. Maxwell opened up the Peram-
 177 badi Ghat estates in 1856, and in 1857 Mr. Kaundinya found-
 ed Anandapur village with a most promising plantation in
 the Bamboo district. Round these first centres of cultivation
 dozens of extensive estates sprang up within a short time.
 Every one who beheld a hill-side, covered with the rich,
 luxuriant coffee shrub was bewitched by its golden promises.
 Here seemed to have been discovered the Eldorado of honest
 industry in a delightful climate and home-like country!
 Natives too, enriched by the sale of forest land, followed the
 474 example of the European planter, and opened up large estates;
 245 private and public companies were formed to embark in the
 177 lucrative speculation; forest land was to be had either from
 434 Government for the mere asking or by purchase from native
 holders. Cooly labour flowed in plentifully. Thousands of
 acres of the finest forest land fell under the planter's axe.
 Every new settler was hailed as a lucky fellow, whose lot
 was cast in pleasant places. Lacs of rupees were spent in
 the expectation of a cent per cent return. With the ap-
 proach of the looked for fabulous income, the excitement rose
 apace. Envy had fixed an eye upon the fortunate planter;—
 but never before stood he more in need of pity and sympathy
 than at that time. A succession of bad seasons disappointed
 his prospects year after year; then the "Bug" infested the
 finest estates on the Sampáji and Perambadi Ghat, and scarcely
 had it left, when the terrible "White Borer," whose acquaint-
 ance we have already made, threatened to destroy the very
 foundation of his prosperity. There are but few planters
 who have as yet escaped either of these dire calamities, and
 their success makes the loss of others all the more felt.
 There is however no cause for despair. The soil and climate
 of the country seem eminently suitable for coffee cultivation.
 Coffee may yet succeed in Coorg and the undaunted planter
 may yet have his reward, if the method of cultivation, best

suited for each locality, is carefully adopted, and if with the increase of jungle vegetation, especially bamboos, better seasons may be expected to return and the "White Borer" to disappear.

The approved methods of coffee cultivation in Coorg are planting under shade and on the open ground, and an intelligent planter will be guided by his experience of the elevation, exposure, and amount of atmospheric humidity of his locality which method to apply. If shade-planting is decided upon, there is the choice between natural and artificial shade, and in either case due regard is paid to full light and free circulation of air. The former method is but the improved native way of planting already described. For artificial shade-planting the jungle trees are all removed and either burnt or— which seems to be better—piled up and allowed to rot, when of the spontaneous new growth, especially the *Sponia Wightii* or "Charcoal tree" which springs up like weeds, a sufficient number of trees is allowed to remain. More permanent shade-trees, however, are the jack tree, the *Poinciana regia*, *Bauhinia*, the mango tree etc., seeds of which are put down at regular distances on the plantation, and after 5 or 6 years the young trees offer already partial shade. Coffee trees on open ground, that require no shade owing to a moister atmosphere, are evidently in a more congenial habitat; they grow stronger, live longer and yield an earlier and successively more regular and larger crop than trees under shade. Some of the Sampáji Ghat-estates nearest Mercara are of this description and their present appearance leaves hardly anything to be desired in coffee planting.

The soil and elevation best suited for cardamoms is also best adapted for coffee cultivation, hence at first the desire to secure cardamom jungles for coffee plantations.

After a piece of land has been cleared and regularly pitted with holes 18 inches cube and at a distance of 5 or 6 feet from each other, the surface soil is filled in and a peg fixed in the centre. With the first burst of the monsoon, the sturdy

245
[474]
[434]
[199]

[249]